

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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Miss Van Buren Township
Page 2

News in brief

Salvation Army seeks bell ringers

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit is calling on residents to help fill the need for Red Kettle bell ringers this holiday season. The group needs to fill more than 50,000 two-hour shifts from now through Dec. 24.

The Salvation Army launched the search for bell ringers earlier than ever this year to ensure there will be enough volunteers stationed at the 300 red kettles that will be located throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The Salvation Army is hoping the Ringbell.org volunteer drive will help to save \$200,000 in expenses during the 117th Red Kettle fundraising campaign.

"We know times are tough in metro Detroit, but our volunteer bell ringers are really the backbone of our Christmas fundraiser," said Major Norman Marshall, divisional commander for The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit.

"Donating two hours of time to ring a bell can really make a difference to support those in need."

Bell ringing opportunities throughout Southeast Michigan are posted at www.ringbell.org. Anyone can log on, pick a preferred location and a two-hour shift that is convenient for them. Volunteers can sign up for one or more two-hour shifts and will receive a confirmation email just prior to the selected date.

Funds raised during the annual Red Kettle Campaign help to assist local families and individuals in times of need. The money also helps maintain local services and self-improvement programs for children and adults.

Founded in 1865 by William Booth in London, England, the Salvation Army is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving people in need without discrimination. At work in Michigan since 1887, the Salvation Army operates 180 facilities throughout the state. In 2007, these facilities were involved in providing more than 2.8 million meals and 770,314 nights of shelter for the homeless of Southeast Michigan alone. The Salvation Army uses \$.83 of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need each and every day of the year, according to the organization.

For more information about the Salvation Army, call (877) SAL-MICH or visit www.salmich.org.

Van Buren parks receives health grant

The Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department received a \$2,000 grant recently from the Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency for the township "Get Up & Get Active" program.

The program is a health and wellness program for the youth in the community and Van Buren is the only community in western Wayne County to receive the funds, according to Bruce Ross, director of parks and recreation for the township. For more information, contact the recreation department at (734) 699-8921.



Lighting the night

An enjoyable holiday tradition will once again enchant residents seeking Christmas enjoyment, or a diversion from a recent glut in bad news. The Wayne County LightFest – which will illuminate Hines Park for the entire holiday season, will open tonight. The project – now 15 years old – is one of the most-anticipated holiday events in the area. County works have spent nearly two months setting up the lights. To see the lights, go to the Merriman Hollow area of the park, near Merriman Road and Warren. For the entire story, turn to page 3.



Firearms can be green, too

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Police officers' duty to qualify annually to carry a firearm just got a little greener.

Officers at the Wayne County Airport Police Department began firing off copper rounds after the grand opening of the lead-free public safety firearm training

range at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus last week.

The product of a \$2 million investment backed by airport improvement bonds and drug seizure dollars, the new training range is part of a four-part public safety works on the grounds of the largest state airport.

"Public safety and security is always the Airport Authority's top

priority," said airport CEO Lester Robinson. "We are proud to have the best-trained public safety officers possible, and this new facility enhances our ability to provide the very best training more efficiently and sustainably."

The 8,215 square foot range provides airport police with one of the

See Range, page 4

Tax OK prompts growth plans at college

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Nov. 4 approval of the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) millage renewal has launched a long-term strategic growth plan.

According to college Chancellor Dr. Curtis Ivery, the school will identify critical areas, such as program development, staffing and campus improvements, expeditiously, but more importantly, right.

"We are delighted that Wayne County voters recognized the need and demonstrated support," he said.

"The district now has the critical resources it needs to help build a trained workforce for southeastern Michigan, to continue to improve student oriented facilities, broaden offerings and continue to transform lives, while helping to build stronger futures for the students, businesses and communities."

The millage, which expires in 2021, will allow the college to plan and pre-plan, according to Charles Paddock, chairman of the board of trustees.

"Had it not been approved, the board would probably have to start

See College, page 4

Casino plan still viable

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Casinos in Romulus will move back to the front burner, and what's happening in the auto industry and in the state economy means that it's not a moment too soon, city officials said Tuesday.

Mayor Alan Lambert and other key city employees will meet with the members of the Sioux Indians, who hoped to build a casino in the city until Congress nixed the plan. Also, a partner with the Hannahville Tribe has contacted the city to possibly move forward on a deal that would not require congressional approval.

The big question for the tribes – and the city – is "How do we proceed?"

"We're meeting next week with the Sioux Tribe, and I received a call from a partner in the Hannahville Tribe, and we're excited about these meetings," Lambert said. "With everything that's going on right now, we're not just going to give up."

Gaming halls were part of a plan to revitalize the city employment picture, and make Romulus an entertainment destination for western Wayne County.

However, a House bill that would have allowed the Sioux to open a casino on non-reservation land failed in Congress, mostly because of opposition from the City of Detroit and concerns about the unchecked expansion of gaming.

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With everything that's going on right now, we're not just going to give up.

Mayor Alan Lambert

Detroit has three casinos within its borders, and already faces stiff competition from Casino Windsor, which is located across the Ambassador Bridge.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs"

Losses in the manufacturing sector – on which Romulus is dependent – have taken a toll on the city. Aid to the embattled automobile industry appeared unlikely on Tuesday, which makes city officials more resolute in terms of introducing gaming, Lambert said.

"If (the automobile industry) doesn't get the help it needs, it could be catastrophic for the region and the state," Lambert said.

"We already have hundreds of thousands of people out of work here in Michigan – we're already hurting," he added.

The losses mean a variety of problems for residents and the city – including more foreclosed homes, more requests for public assistance, and the potential of

See Gaming, page 4

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Wayne may see drop in property tax

Scott Spielman
Editor

Despite an increase in the rate of inflation in Michigan, taxpayers may still see a drop in taxes next year.

"I think you're going to see a lot of people have their taxes fall," said Wayne City Manager John Zech.

The City of Wayne recently learned that the inflation rate modifier for 2009 is 4.4 percent, he said. The modifier, handed down from the State Tax Commission, is applied to property values to determine the overall tax rate.

The State Tax Commission develops the inflation rate by comparing the general price level from the immediately previous fiscal year to the one before that. Even so, at a time when home values are dropping at an unprecedented rate, officials in Wayne said they don't understand how the tax commission developed the 4.4 percent modifier—which is the highest since Proposal A was voted into place in 1995.

"It seems incongruous with the economy," said Zech.

"It's strange but it has happened before," said Tim McCurley, finance director of the City of Wayne.

Municipalities cannot adopt or use a different inflation rate modifier.

Knowing the inflation rate modifier will still not determine if homeowners will see an increase or reduction in their taxes in 2009, however, since they are essentially calculated on a home-by-home basis. Residents who have owned their homes for longer than 10

*It's not a true sale. That would hurt other people.
They look at each transaction to see what really transpired.
They're doing a lot more work this year.*

Tim McCurley

years—where there is likely still a discrepancy between the assessed value and the State Equalized Value (SEV) may see an increase. Those who have owned their homes for a shorter period of time will most likely see a drop in their overall taxes that reflects the current market, McCurley said.

The other side of the equation is also out of local control and is determined as Wayne County officials make market assessments of neighborhoods throughout the county. Those market assessments will most likely show a drop in property values, he said, but are not

finalized until the end of the year. They look at home sales but do not factor in issues such as the number of foreclosed houses because they would negatively impact property values.

"It's not a true sale," McCurley said. "That would hurt other people. They look at each transaction to see what really transpired. They're doing a lot more work this year."

The current situation is a by-product of Proposal A, which was enacted in 1995 to keep property taxes down. After that, increases in taxes were limited to the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever was lower. Since then, the inflation modifier has never been higher than 3.7 percent, which was in 2007.

McCurley said the city would get preliminary figures in February, but those could change in March, when homeowners have the option to take their tax bills to the Board of Review. Even so, he said the drop in taxes may make for a difficult budget year for Wayne and other municipalities.

"It's good news for the homeowners, but bad news for the city," he said.



Miss Van Buren Township

The Van Buren Township Recreation Department, along with former Miss Michigan Laura Abney, hosted the second annual Miss Van Buren Township pageant recently at Belleville High School. Twenty-three contestants went through various categories and competition phases, including private interview, party wear, sportswear and on-stage question. Winners included: Tiny Miss Van Buren Township Molly Cote, Little Miss Van Buren Township Maria Kasperek (pictured), Miss Teen Van Buren Township Courtenay Ackley and Miss Van Buren Township Aleisha Wells. Also pictured is last year's winner Junior Miss Van Buren Township Ciah Green with the 2008 Junior Miss Van Buren Township Unjane Wells. Winners will participate in the City of Belleville Christmas Parade, the Belleville National Strawberry Festival and the Van Buren Township Mother/Daughter Tea Party.



Operation Warm succeeds

Operation Warm donations this year totaled \$3,284 that will be used to buy more than 200 coats for children whose families are facing hard economic times, officials said.

This is the first year the Van Buren Public Schools solicited donations directly from the public. For \$15, contributors could buy a coat for a child who would otherwise have gone all winter without one.

The coat drive this year was a success in no small part to two Alternative Education composition classes who decided to have a competition to see who could bring in the most money for coats. First and second hour composition classes brought in an impressive \$1,024 for the coat program, which was one third of all donations, according to officials.

"It was incredible what these students accomplished in two weeks," said Paul Henning, communications specialist with the district. "They went out into the community and asked businesses and private citizens to support this initiative. They need to be commended for their selflessness in wanting to help those less fortunate than

themselves."

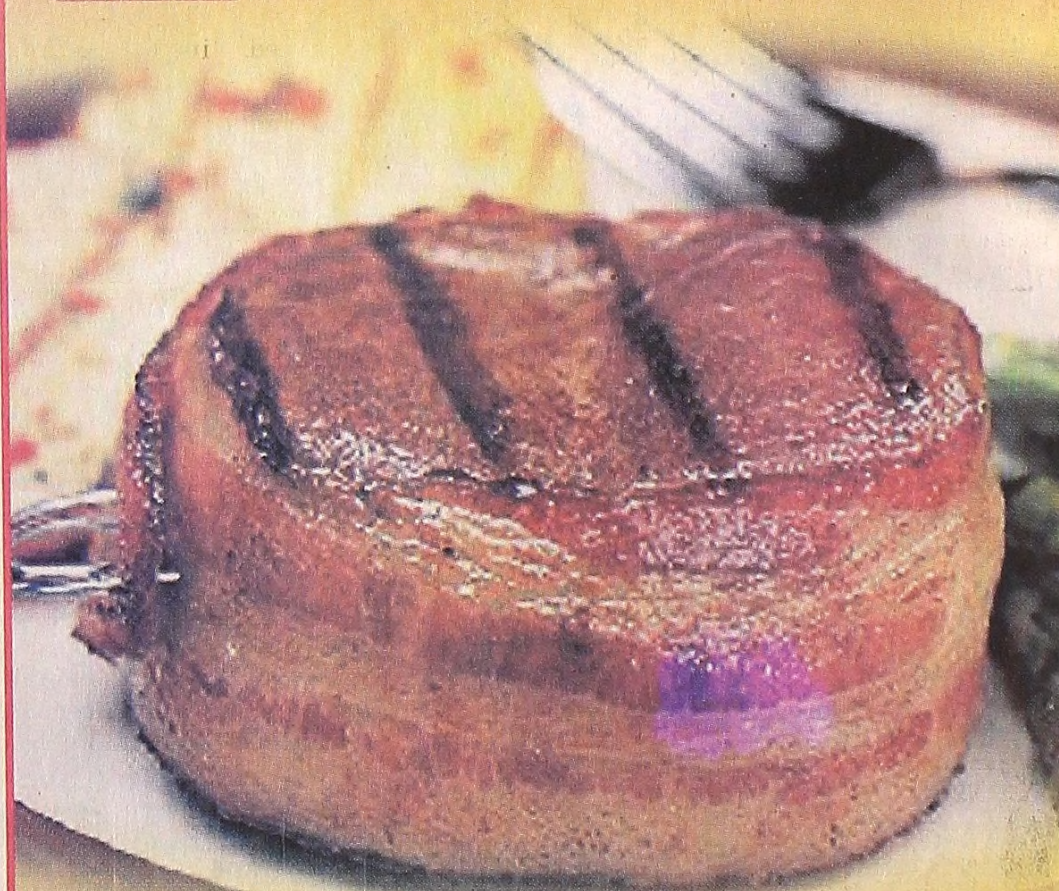
Van Buren Public Schools first partnered with Operation Warm in 2005 when they agreed to help distribute coats donated by a local business for the children of the district. In 2007, that local business was unable to donate the coats they had in the past and the Belleville Rotary Club members donated \$2,500 as seed money to grow the program in the community. This year is the first year that the program is on its own to generate funds in this challenging economy. During the last three years the schools have been involved in providing 967 coats and 400 hats to children of the district.

Founded in 1998, Operation Warm provides new winter coats to children in need through strategic partnerships with donors and community organizations. Their vision is that every child wearing a new winter coat is healthy, is able to attend school regularly, and has strong self-esteem. Operation Warm has distributed more than 375,000 new winter coats to children living in poverty throughout the United States and the equivalent of more than \$14 million in merchandise.

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Graded?

Schools to evaluate 'learning communities' program value

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Van Buren school officials are working to get a progress report on the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to see where district educational goals are headed.

A PLC focuses on learning and working collaboratively, rather than teaching. The report would outline the next action steps based on the focus of learning, building a collaborative culture and focusing on results, according to officials.

Dave Peer, president of the board of education, said school officials have debated for two years now about where they are and where they aren't with the PLC.

"It's been quite a debate on whether or not the district is getting their money's worth and if they're on track," he said.

Board member Bob Binert said there seems to be more of a problem at Belleville High School as to where they're at with the learning communities.

"If we understand the whole process, then why do they want the survey to be done," he said. "It would be to our benefit to look at a sample survey at the high school."

"Also, what's our expectation of when we get periodic reports on how the PLC is operating," Binert added.

Linda Olson, director of personnel for the district, said a consultant cost per building is about \$8,900. She said she was concerned

about what the district would actually gain, which is why she requested a sample report from another district.

"I want to make a note that their information is based on only two to three focus groups and our recent assessment of the culture at Belleville High School prepared by Wenham & Henderson was much more extensive," she said. "I would recommend that before committing to this, we are confident that the assessment will actually provide more direction than the results of our spring PLC survey, the Wenham report and other data for driving the direction of the PLCs. Otherwise we are siphoning off time that could be spent on supporting the staff development of our PLCs."

A facilitation team would come out to the school for analysis and an on-site visit and the final report will offer personalized next steps citing accomplishments and strengths. The report will also recommend high-leverage steps designed to improve the collective staff capacity to function as a PLC, according to officials.

"It might not hurt to have someone come in and say this is where we are, what we should do and what might help to resolve it," said Peer. "What are our expectations and what are we doing to move forward is something we've been struggling with for a long time."

"I know what we want in a generalized way, but I'm not really seeing it from the staff," said Binert. "Hopefully the report will shed some light on that."

It's been quite a debate on whether or not the district is getting their money's worth and if they're on track.

Dave Peer



Fashionable fundraiser

The Belleville Business and Professional Women's group sponsored their annual fashion show recently to generate funds for the scholarship program. Each year, the group gives away scholarships to a high school senior and a woman who would like to go back to school or enter the workforce. Models included members like Kathie Steigerwald and Joyce Rochowiak. The event also included an auction and dinner at the Woodland of Van Buren. Photos by Ken Garner



Library begins 'Books on Wheels' delivery

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Books are on the move in Belleville.

In an effort to provide easy library access, staff members at the Fred C. Fischer Library have started a "Books on Wheels" program.

The program will deliver any kind of book to any person unable to travel to the library in person, according to Michelle Wloch, circulation supervisor at the library.

"It's still in the works, but we really see that there's a need," she said. "It's very flexible how it works, too. They can get a load of books for a couple months and then change them out as they please."

Wloch said library staff members are trying to target places and people who obviously need the program first, such as nursing homes,

assisted living facilities, private residences and senior apartments. The first to use the program was Columbia Court apartments.

Anyone in Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township who would like library services, but is unable to get to the library, can participate, officials said.

"They can get any type of book for a certain amount of time and we'll pull it off the shelf for them and bring it; how long they keep it is flexible, as well," said Wloch. "As long as you're in the area, have trouble transporting and have the need, they can use this; it's for any age."

Officials decided to start Books on Wheels as part of the 5-year library plan and to cover their quality services checklist, according to Library Director Debra Green.

"Libraries are for everyone and

if they can't get here, we can still serve them," she said. "Now, all we need is the clients."

"I thought it was neat," said Wloch. "I thought we could target the "Meals on Wheels" crowd to start."

"In the future I would love to have the service in place and books sitting on the shelf here, but I don't know where we're headed (with the program), but we're willing to see where" she added.

Green also said the Fred C. Fischer Library is currently breaking the records on circulation, Internet use and programs and services.

"We still don't have enough space for books here so we're shifting around things," she said. "We still hope the three communities can work something out for the district

library board, but I'm optimistic because nobody disputes the need here; all you have to do is come in here."

Although, Book on Wheels has already generated interest.

"Everybody loves a good book," said Wloch. "When we brought the books to Columbia Court, the residents walked around and descended around the box of books, looking at them and that's what it's all about."

The program is also in need of volunteers to deliver books. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, ability to drive in all three communities and their own transportation.

For more information about the program or to volunteer, contact Wloch at the library at (734) 699-3291.

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Jealousy may have fueled fatal home fire

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A jealous rage may have fueled an inferno that claimed the life of a 52-year-old woman at a home on the 28000 block of Rosewood Street early Monday morning, police said.

A 63-year-old woman who lives two doors from the site of the blaze is now in custody under suspicion that she used accelerants to start the fire at the bungalow at 28227 Rosewood, with her former boyfriend and his new companion inside.

The boyfriend, whom neighbors called “Mr Lee” was able to escape the flames although his girlfriend –52-year-old Denise Robinson – was overcome by smoke and died at the scene, said Fire Chief Marc Hubanks.

“The man who lived at the home was on the front lawn, and he told us there was someone inside,” he said. “She (Robinson) was discov-

ered in the upstairs bedroom.”

Though the investigation is ongoing, Hubanks said accelerant was detected on the front porch.

“The fire burned the hottest on the porch,” he said.

Det. Tony Delgreco of the joint police-fire arson unit, said the fire was suspicious, and that the suspect would likely be charged with felony murder and arson for setting the home on fire knowing someone was inside.

“This was all about jealousy,” he said.

Witnesses apparently told police about constant fighting between the suspect and her former boyfriend. A police canine also tracked the scent of accelerants to the suspect’s home. This led investigators to arrest the woman hours after the crime, as stunned neighbors looked on.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the woman had not yet been charged with a crime, but was in custody at

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I received a text message that she had been murdered, and I'm shocked. She was such a nice woman – and she said she was going to file a police report (about the stalking).

Kristina Hamilton

the Inkster jail. Her name is being withheld pending charges.

At the home Monday afternoon, area residents who knew Robinson and her companion were shocked about the nature of the crime.

“I can’t believe anything like this would happen in our neighborhood – everyone was family here,” said Kristina Hamilton, 20, who lived in the community for several years.

Hamilton, who said she had dated the victim’s son, said Robinson had told her she felt she was being stalked by the suspect.

“I received a text message that she had been murdered, and I’m shocked. She was such a nice woman – and she said she was going to file a police report (about the stalking).”

Sarah Kuykendall, who made the 911 call to police to report the fire, said she too was bewildered by the events in her neighborhood.

“It’s hard to believe that anything like that would happen here,” she said.

Hamilton said she watched as investigators removed boxes of evi-

dence, which is currently being tested at the Michigan State Police Crime Laboratory in Northville.

The suspect’s son was also surprised at the accusations. Troy Garrison, 44, said he believed his mother was innocent.

“It’s easy for people to assign blame,” he said. “She hasn’t gone out with him for two years, and she’s innocent.”

Robinson lived across the street from where the fire occurred, and was a mother. Residents in the area believe that she was employed as a nurse.

Hamilton said that when the fire began, residents didn’t initially think a crime had been committed, but fire burned, they slowly realized Robinson was in trouble.

“Everyone came out to look at what was happening, except for her,” said Hamilton.

Check for updates on this story at www.journalgroup.com.

Calendar of events

Tree lighting scheduled

Romulus will begin the holiday season on Friday, when Santa makes his official arrival in the city.

The annual tree lighting will take place beginning at 5 p.m. at the Romulus Historic Park. Santa will arrive, and will accept a key to the city from Mayor Alan Lambert, at 6 p.m.

During the event, the historic Kingsley House will be open free of charge for all residents. The house will be decorated for the holiday season, and the Golden Griffon Stringtet will provide entertainment.

Afterward, the Romulus Progressive Club will open the Progressive Hall to enjoy light refreshments while Santa hears children's wishes. The Lincoln Park Train Club, formerly the Trenton Train Club, will have train displays set up for viewing.

Other entertainment includes “Ministry in Motion” dancers and craft making, both of which are Romulus Parks and Recreation Department programs.

Refreshments and gift bags for children will be provided courtesy of the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department.

Photos with Santa (\$2 each) will be available, but the remainder of the program is free.

The Historical Park is located on Hunt Street near the post office. Progressive Hall is located at located at 11580 Ozga Road, near Five Points.

Fall book club announced

The Second Monday Book Club will continue book discussions throughout the winter months. The book club meets from 7-8:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month to discuss various books at the library.

Selections include: *Mr. Paradise* by Elmore Leonard, which will be discussed on Nov. 10; *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy, which will be discussed Dec. 8; *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D.Estleman, which will be discussed Jan. 12; *Ladies of Liberty* by Cokie Roberts, which will be discussed Feb. 9; *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson, which will be discussed March 9; and *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver, which will be discussed April 13.

Book discussions are free and open to those 18 and up. Readers need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or will assist participants in obtaining an inter-library loan copy.

The Romulus Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next door to the Romulus City Hall.

For more information, call the library at (734) 941-3575.

Flu shots offered

Sav-On Drug stores throughout metro Detroit are sponsoring flu clinics in November and December. Flu shots are \$25 this year, and pneumonia shots will be offered for \$35.

Payment options include cash, check and credit card, as well Medicare and medical insurances.

The clinics are open to the public for people 14 and older. For a weekly listing of flu clinics, visit flushotcalendar.com or call 1-877-SAV ON 2 U (877-728-6628.)

For more information, call (734) 941-0755.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Gaming

FROM PAGE 1

reduced property tax revenues.

Those revenues pay for services like police and fire, and so far, the city has been able to hold the line on laying off personnel, Lambert said.

Councilman William Wadsworth said he believes the area would be helped immensely by a casino, whether the automobile industry is bailed out or not.

“I’m behind it 100 percent, but will it happen? Only the future will tell,” he said.

“What I can say is that it should be allowed to happen no matter what the economics are,” Wadsworth added. “It would put 3,300 people back to work – and they would have insurance, and they’d be able to spend money. What we need here is jobs, jobs, jobs.”

Casinos could be one panacea for those issues, city officials said.

A combined development could generate 3,000 jobs for area residents, and could spur offshoot development that would improve the city tax base and bring additional jobs.

There is the prospect that the re-introduction of a bill that would again allow for the development of a casino on non-reservation could take place once President-elect Barack Obama’s administration, and a slew of new legislators – take control in Washington.

Casino suffering

In Detroit, there is speculation that Greektown Casinos – which is currently in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization – could run out of money to operate, or complete several construction projects.

Lambert doesn’t think adding a casino in Romulus would dilute the moneymaking prospects for Romulus or Detroit.

“There are three casinos downtown,” he said. “We are in a different area, and a casino here would draw different people.”

Group faces controversy in Westland

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Two local residents involved in a recall effort aimed at five Westland officials argued Monday that election rules were an attempt to subvert their campaign.

According to Save Our Neighborhood (SON) organizer and Westland resident Donna DeWitt, the group purposely started their signature collection process prior to the November election so that they would be able to take advantage of what was expected to be a record turnout at the polls. They needed to collect 6,818 signatures to get recall questions targeting Mayor Bill Wild, City Council President James Godbout, and councilmen Michael Kehrer, Bill Johnson, and Dewey Reeves placed on the ballot.

“We felt confident we were going to get enough (signatures),” said DeWitt. “The petitions at the polls were going to give us a big boost.”

State law says only that, “a person shall not...request or obtain signatures on petitions in the polling room or in a compartment connected to the polling room or

within 100 feet from any entrance to the building in which the polling place is located.” As a result, she argued that the group was treated unfairly because they were not allowed to collect signatures anywhere on school property on the day of the election.

“Our group scattered,” she said. “They were terrified if they went up to the polls they would be arrested.”

The bottom line, said Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart, is that although the city is allowed to utilize school space to host the elections they must do so within the confines of the policies set forth by school district, which owns the property.

“They’re very gracious to schedule their half days around major elections,” said DeHart. “The least we can do is abide by their rules.”

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Gregory Baracy confirmed Tuesday that the district does have policies in place to prohibit political activity on school grounds, including petitioning.

“Circulating petitions to recall somebody is political,” said Baracy, adding that the district had previously sought a legal opinion on the

matter. “It’s no different from people trying to put campaign signs on school grounds.”

DeWitt disagreed, arguing that both state and county election workers, whom she declined to name, told her otherwise.

DeWitt and fellow activist Judy McKinney also spoke up in opposition to the council position that discussing the recall effort at the podium during city meetings was a form of campaigning and, as such, wasn’t permissible. According to Godbout, however, no one has been prevented from having his or her say and the rule helps ensure that city business can be accomplished.

“Our meetings are conducted in a businesslike atmosphere,” he said. “We want to keep it that way.”

Claiming that funding prevented the group from hiring an attorney to continue the recall effort and challenge the school district, DeWitt called upon Godbout, DeHart, Westland City Attorney Angelo Plakas, and Wild to resign. None of the officials obliged.

“We still haven’t decided what to do,” said DeWitt. “If nothing else, we can resubmit the exact same language again this summer. We’re kind of taking it day by day.”

College

FROM PAGE 1

to look for services to cut,” he said. “Classes and programming are where the expansion will take place.”

Ivery said the economy, the need to retrain workers, plus the value of the community college helped drive the positive vote.

“There is a tremendous need in southeastern Michigan in general,” he said. “We’re uniquely situated to serve students in an important way.”

Growth of the college, which has gone from 500 students to 7,000, can

be attributed to different classes, which are not just for older students, either, officials said.

“The college has grown from a primarily older student base to now when you look at it, it’s vibrant,” said Paddock. “There’s a good mix and you have so many younger students coming right out of high school.”

Another factor for securing funding is focusing on gaining re-accreditation. The college is accredited now, but that accreditation needs to be renewed every 10 years, which this millage will provide.

As for future millage plans, a lot will depend upon the campuses, which include the west-

ern campus in Belleville, along with Taylor, Southfield and Detroit locations. Classes will be tailored to meet the market and needs of the region, like concentrating on the Aerotropolis concept for a high-tech alternative energy kind of curriculum, officials said.

“We have an unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability in all our operations,” said Ivery. “This commitment will prevail as we create and implement a plan that makes us a national leader in the coming decade.”

Editor Scott Spielman contributed to this story.

Range

FROM PAGE 1

safest, and most convenient facilities in the area, said Scott Wintner, a spokesman for the airport police.

“Every airport in the country has certain law enforcement needs, and we have added security concerns,” he said. “Just like any other police department, we have a need to make sure officers are well-trained. In the past, we were using other people’s facilities – mostly the county’s (range) at Henry Ruff (Road) and Michigan Avenue.”

In Michigan, police officers are required to qualify with a trained firearms specialist each year to carry a firearm on duty.

Though the airport police are not a municipal force, there are several officers on site who need to complete this task, Wintner said. In all, about 100 sworn and civilian individuals are employed by the Airport Police. They police an airport that sees about 36 million people pass through the gates, or about 100,000 individuals per day.

The new facility is outfitted with state of the art equipment, but another concern was in mind at the airport: the possibility of lead exposure from the constant

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We don't believe anyone was put at risk. The officers who used a range aren't likely to be exposed, but you have to be concerned about the range officer. The way this facility was built, it's not even a concern.

Scott Wintner

utilize traditional lead-based ammunition. Officers training at the new airport range will use special, lead-free equipment that reduces exposure to toxic metals and precludes the need for cumbersome, expensive cleaning and maintenance procedures. The bullets used at the site will be made entirely of copper, which Wintner said is more expensive, but also safer.

The special frangible ammunition—known as Reduced-Hazard Training Ammunition (RHTA)—turns to copper dust upon impact with ballistic steal paneling on the back of the range. That copper dust can then be collected and recycled.

Because no toxic materials are present, maintenance of the facility can be accomplished by Airport Authority maintenance crews rather than requiring service by special HAZMAT crews.

Robinson said the building is an example of forward-thinking environmental and fiscal initiatives at the airport.

“Although the RHTA costs about 30 to 40 percent more than traditional ammunition, the savings in operation and maintenance expenses it provides will reduce the total cost to operate the facility in the long run,” he said.

OPINION

Election results will bring changes to area

Across the Detroit metro area, a time of change will begin this week.

This is the week when those who were successful at their respective township elections are sworn into office. The elections are over, the victories celebrated, the losses dissected and mourned. Now it's time to get to work.

There will be new people on the board in Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Northville Township and Van Buren Township, the result of retirements in some communities, missed opportunities in others and the plain old desire for change.

Of particular interest in the coming years will be the communities that saw the most change: Canton Township and Van Buren Township. In Canton, Supervisor Tom Yack is retiring, as is Treasurer Elaine Kirchgatter. Incumbent Trustee Todd LaJoy lost out on a bid to get elected to the state Legislature and incumbent Karl Zarbo was unsuccessful in

”

There are challenging times ahead—local governments are only just now beginning to experience the full impact of the soft housing market.

his bid for re-election, as well. That leaves three trustees with little government experience to join Todd Caccamo, Terry Bennett and Melissa McLaughlin—who was elected to fill Kirchgatter's post. Phil LaJoy, the former trustee and term-limited state representative, will take over the helm of the

township as the new supervisor.

In Van Buren, most of the incumbents ran on the 'King Team' slate—and were defeated in the August primary. Incoming Supervisor Paul White has arguably the toughest job to fill, overseeing a township and a board of trustees that lost most of its experience. Things may not be pretty down there for a while.

The most important thing to remember in this coming time is that the campaigns are over. It's time to get to work, forget about the past and learn to work together, no matter what kinds of animosity existed only a few months before. There are challenging times ahead—local governments are only just now beginning to experience the full impact of the soft housing market. Budget shortfalls are projected everywhere. The citizenry is nervous.

This is not a time to point the blame on the past. It's a time to come together and do what's right for the future.

Recall effort is baseless

Members of the Wayne-Westland School board are in the position they didn't want: facing down an attempted recall election.

A group called the Wayne-Westland Parents for Quality Education is pushing to recall President Martha Pitsenbarger and Vice-President Skip Monit—and, soon, William Gabriel and Cindy Schofield—because of decisions that led to the current state of the district.

They've pushed members of the school board at recent meetings, wondering how they can spend money on updating facilities when teacher contracts are still outstanding. They question how they can pay administrators so much when they claim beginning teachers in the district make less than entry level instructors elsewhere. In a flyer distributed around Halloween, they claim that the board cares more about an education that looks good than a good education.

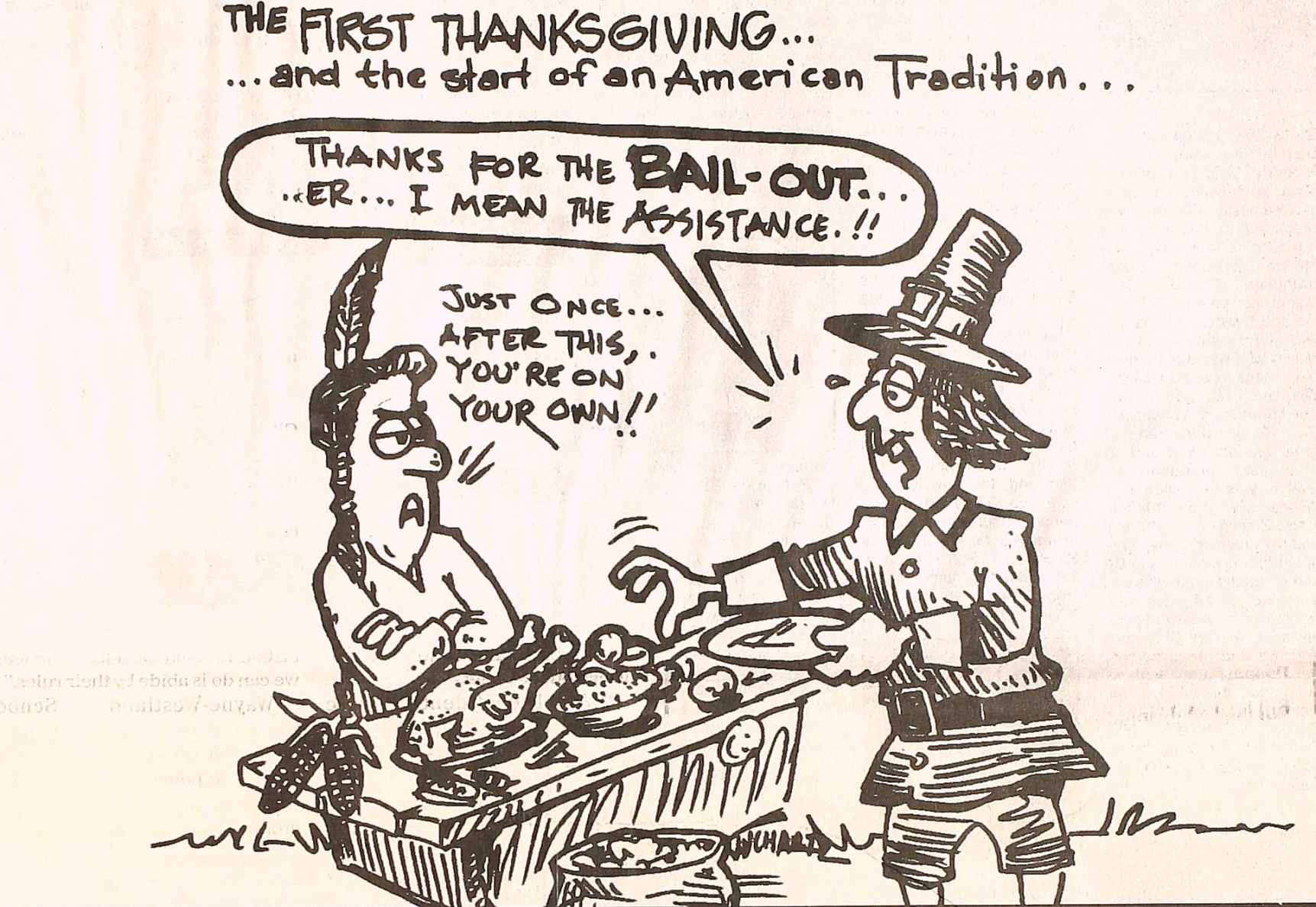
Sorry, Charlie, but this is a ridiculous waste of time that will have long-term negative effects on the community.

We're not putting down the recall election process. It's an important part of the checks and balances of government at all levels.

We're just putting it down in this case.

It's sad that people want to punish the board for doing such a good job during these troubling economic times. In an age when most districts can't keep up with infrastructure needs, the Wayne-Westland district has managed to update all their facilities—bringing schools in line with the more modern districts around us. Many buildings have never looked better, thanks to a voter-approved millage that cannot be used on salaries of any type in the first place.

It's sad that people are upset with the amount school or district administrators are paid. They've shown the kind of fiscal oversight during this time of increasing costs



Stalled car purchase is no 'fiesta'

As I write this, members of the Big Three automakers are about to head into a Senate panel discussion on a proposed bailout of the American auto industry.

I'm not the kind of guy that can weigh in on the political nuances of this proposal, the socio-economic factors, the union versus non-union battle or the impact it would have nationally and globally.

I can say this, though: at times, I don't have a lot of sympathy for the American auto industry. I think many of their problems are of their own making. You can probably say that about other industries that require help from the government to stay afloat, too—and I think the newspaper industry is nearly in the same pickle, self-imposed problems and all.

I offer a single example of this. I am reluctantly entering the market for a new car—reluctantly, because I don't really want to tack on a car payment since I work for an industry

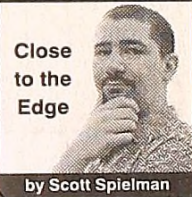
that I just mentioned is in need of a government bailout. I'm a practical guy, modest in my means. I'm looking for an entry level, serviceable hatchback, because I'm not a sedan guy and I'm too cheap to give all my money to the oil companies if I manage to afford an SUV. I live in Wayne, I work in Wayne, I hang out in Wayne. The City of Wayne is primarily supported by the Ford Motor Co.—the three plants here provide more than 60 percent of its tax base—so I would like to support that automaker. Except Ford doesn't have an entry-level hatchback. The closest they will come is in 2010, when the revamped Fiesta is on the market.

When I think of my particular market segment, my eye is more often attracted to overseas vehicles—the Mini Cooper, the Honda Fit, things like that—models that tend to get better mileage, too.

That being said, I think the loan requested

by automakers is obviously important. It should come with conditions, though. It should come with the caveat that it is used to create more fuel-efficient vehicles, more types of hybrids—things that will not only help the environment in the long term, but foster a new alternative energy based economy that we can capitalize on here in Michigan. And yes, it should be tied to union wage cuts and other kinds of concessions. I don't think the auto companies are in any position to take a hard stance on this. Ron Gettlefinger, president of the UAW makes a point when he says that the rescue of the nation's financial institutions didn't include such a stipulation, but this is an entirely different industry.

How all this shakes out is up for the big wigs to decide. Me? I'd just like to be able to buy a nice, practical car that was made down the block and sold across the street.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Welcome back Mr. Vellucci, welcome back

Hold the press, back the truck up and start buying tickets because everyone's favorite coach is behind

the bench again.

After nearly a year away from the ice, Plymouth Whaler General Manager and President Michael Vellucci is back in the driver's seat again as the team head coach.

Thank the hockey gods (would they be considered demigods since this is the minor leagues) for returning the franchise's most successful coach back to power.

Let's hope he can steer the team back on course—preferably the one the team followed all the way to the Ontario Hockey League championship in 2007—and away from the cliff departing coach Greg Stefan was headed for.

It's not clear if Stefan decided to take a scouting position with the Carolina Hurricanes on his own or it was decided for him. Either way it was the right choice since the Red Wing legend wasn't cut out to be a head coach.

The numbers prove it.

Vellucci led the team to a 16-10 record through November of last

year before turning the team over to Stefan in December. The team then went, 18-24 the rest of the way and lost four straight playoff games in March under Stefan's command.

This year Stefan was 6-13—including losing seven of the last eight contests—and was currently in last place of the Western Conference's West Division before stepping aside.

That is a far cry from Vellucci's 49-14-2-3 record in the 2006-07 campaign. The team won the OHL Championship and represented the league in the Canadian Hockey League' Memorial Cup series. He earned Coach Of the Year honors for the 2007 team accomplishments. And we here at The Journal Newspapers named him Sports Newsmaker of the Year in 2007. Let's not forget the 246-132-37-22 lifetime record he carries with him.

Granted, I respect Vellucci's decision to step down last December to spend more time with family, but I hope his family is

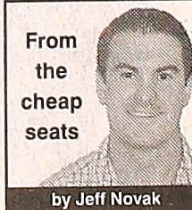
understanding enough to realize the Whalers need him on the bench. Something tells me he probably missed it a little bit, too.

He hasn't even been absent from the bench an entire year but we've missed him dearly as I'm sure the fans did, too.

Moving on.

There is no reason for the Whalers' struggles. The bench is stacked with players that know how to win like team captain, center, Chris Terry; alternate captain and defender Michael Jordan; left wingers and alternate captains AJ Jenks and Joe Gaynor; and right winger and alternate captain Kaine Geldart.

The Carolina Hurricanes selected both Terry and Jordan and Jenks is a Florida Panther pick. Gaynor and Geldart are eligible for the 2009 draft.



From the cheap seats

by Jeff Novak

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Recall

FROM PAGE 5

and stagnant revenues that have kept district services in place. These are jobs unlike any in the private sector, where they are essentially on duty seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, where they are responsible to hundreds of employees and

accountable to thousands of people. It's silly that they would then tack this argument onto teachers' salaries, since they are linked. This is the way the union system is set up: the more you pay your teachers, the more you have to pay those who supervise them. It's simple economics.

Still, none of that seems to matter. If this recall goes forward, or worse yet, these long-serving members are ousted from office, it

will be a bad thing for the community. It will make it less likely that good people will run for office.

Perhaps the ultimate irony here is that a group called the Wayne-Westland Parents for Quality Education is trying to oust parents that have actually stood up for quality education throughout their political careers.

We just hope this is a vocal minority and the remainder of us have a bit more sense.

Welcome

FROM PAGE 5

The Whalers also have one of the top goalies in the league with returning star Jeremy Smith—a Nashville Predator selection. Plus, the team also has an A-list of young

talent. So there were no excuses for Stefan's failures. All the pieces are there and hopefully Vellucci isn't too rusty to fit them together and work some of that hockey magic he did two seasons ago. Welcome back Mr. Vellucci, welcome back.

Watch for daily news updates on our website www.journalgroup.com

CLASSIFIED

1. Obituaries



Evelyn Lilly, age 93 was born on Feb. 12, 1915 in Moberly, MO and passed away on November 9, 2008 in Winchester, CA. She was preceded in death by her husband Elmer Lilly, son Marvin, grandson Darin, grandson Thomas Cary Marsh, her parents, 5 brothers and 5 sisters. She is survived by daughters Kathleen Marsh of Dearborn Heights, MI, Norma Jean Conklin of Westland, MI, son Robert Lilly (Sherrie) of Winchester, CA, 12 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 21 great-great grandchildren. Evelyn was a resident of Westland, MI from 1943 to 1997. Starting in 1997 she and her husband Elmer were going to live 6 months in CA and 6 months in MI. She was a retired postal clerk who worked in the Westland post office for 14 years. She was a gracious and giving person, was loved by many and will be greatly missed. Her final resting place will be Felps Chapel in Moberly, MO. There will be a memorial service in Moberly, MO at a future date.



February 19, 1963-October 27, 2008 Kimberly Turner Morris is survived by her husband Darryl, and her daughter Kristian and son Christopher. Also surviving her are her grandchild Kellan; five brothers, Harvey, Charlie, Anthony, Cornell and Juan; and two sisters, Maxine and Lizzetta, and her "adopted" daughter and grandchildren, Heather, Jaylyn, Landry, and Mignon. A memorial service took place at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness in Romulus. Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors Tri-County Cremation Service



June 26, 1940- November 7, 2008 John O. Davis Sr. Precious memories of John shall forever live in the hearts of his family. Celebrating his homegoing are his beloved

children: Mrs. Rhonda (Marc) Washington of Detroit, MI. Mr. John O. Davis Jr., Ms. Anastasia Davis, and Mr. Marco Davis all of Inkster, MI; two dear adopted sons: Mr. Lynel Davis and Mr. Mario Davis of Inkster, MI. Six brothers: Mr. Emmett (Bertha) Davis of Rochester, N.Y., Mr. Jesse Davis, Mr. William (Ruby) Davis and Mr. Franklin Davis all of Inkster, MI; Mr. Sandy (Rochelle) Davis of Westland, MI and Mr. Robert (Hattie) Davis of Memphis, TN. Two sisters: Ms. Alice Rogers of Inkster, MI and Ms. Barbara Davis of Blytheville, Arkansas. Seven grandchildren: Ms. Marquel Washington, Mr. Jerrell Davis, Mr. Devin Davis, Ms. Dazasia Davis, Mr. Marc Washington II, Little Miss Dezaria Leali and Little Master Dynzell Davis. One aunt: Mrs. Easter Washington of Memphis, TN. One Uncle: Mr. Sam Middlebrooks of Cleveland, Ohio and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and family members. Beulah Missionary Baptist Church 5651 Miblebelt Rd., Westland, MI, Rev. Kenneth C. Pierce, Officiating Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI, Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors, 313-278-6300, Interment, Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens, 17840 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI



Sunrise: February 13, 1976 Sunset: November 5, 2008 Selena Martin is survived by her mother Melzina Martin, father Willie Shaw, life-long companion Reginald Keefe Lockhart, Daja-nay "Na Na" Latrese Martin, Zaira Sha'Kenya Doris Martin, La'Sheena "Sheena" Thomasiana Lockhart; siblings: Toni Lee Martin (Oredo Thomas), Julia Nicole Martin, Arlee Melzina Martin, Anthony Wilson Jr. (Leslie Gomez), Jakara and Diamond Shaw; aunts and uncles, Frank Martin Jr. (Michella Martin), Curtis Lee Martin (Beatrice Martin), Gregory Martin (Jovan Smith), James Martin, Selina Smith, Doris Martin, nine nieces, four nephews, best friend Toby Crowder, one God-son, a host of cousins and friends and her in-laws, Regina, Sabrina, Lorenzo and Bobby Lockhart. Penn Funeral Home Chapel, 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI, Elder Nathan Fisher, Officiating Interment, Westlawn Memorial Gardens, Wayne, MI



June 5, 1943- November 9, 2008 Bettie Joe Briggs, Bettie leave to cherish her memory: 9 children: Rocky, David,

Jessie. Tricia (Robert), Timothy, Michelle, Latasha (Lashawn), Steven Clayshon and a Godson, Vern Wells; 4 brothers, Pastor Curtis Borders (Leevern), Donnell, Jerome, and Ricky; 2 sisters, Jessie and Debra; one brother-in-law, Michael Calloway; one aunt, Elizabeth Taylor; 16 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 2 special friends, Caroline Jones and Wendy Brooks and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Pastor Lindsay, Minister Leevern Borders Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI Interment, Knollwood Memorial Park 1299 Ridge Rd., Canton, MI



Nathan D. Davis Sept. 20, 1957- Nov. 02, 2008 Nathan passed away on November 2, 2008. Memories of Nate and the love we shared will forever remain in our hearts. He leaves to cherish, his mother, Clara Mae Davies; three brothers: Huey Davis, Jr. (Tonya), Floyd Davis (Abby), Joseph Davis; two sisters: Carolyn D. Thomas (William), Sonya D. Davis; three aunts: Louise, Beatrice, Fannie; one uncle, Sonny, and a host of nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. The Penn Funeral Home 3015 S. Inkster, Inkster, MI Elder Ronald P. Springer, Officiating True Love Evangelistic Ministry Tri-County Cremation Services



Sunrise: June 15, 1923 Sunset: November 9, 2008 Eunice Watson She leaves to cherish her memory her loving son L Roy Watson Jr. (Robin), one extended daughter Sharon Slagle (Tom), Six grandchildren: Angela (Jerry), Yolanda (Gerald), LeRoy Watson III (Shalanda), Chanel, Robert and Brian. One favorite cousin Dolores Brown, two very special friends Jackie and Karen. She leaves a host of great-grandchildren, family & Pilgrim Travelers, Missionary Baptist Church, 2945 John Daly, Inkster, MI, Rev. Charlie Knighten, Officiating Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Rd., Inkster, MI Mr. James H. Penn & Sons, Directors Metropolitan Memorial Park, Belleville, MI

30. Help Wanted

Babysitter Needed Immediately in Inkster. \$700 - weekly Must LOVE children! Call #678-318-3650

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Open Positions as follows: Custodian-Testing and interview required. General knowledge of custodial duties, Mechanical ability. Emergency Security Response. Posting closes November 25, 2008. Apply on-line at <http://wwwcsd.net> or come to Human Resources to access the online application system -EOE- Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185

34. Specialized Services

TRUCK & TRAILER PARKING Storage Trailers Available! Located @ Middlebelt & I-94 Larry or Dean #734-946-7556

59. Auctions

Howard's Towing & Collision, 35830 Van Born Rd., Wayne, MI 48184, 734-326-1114 Auction, November 25, 2008, 1:00pm, Cash Only, All Vehicles "Sold As Is"

1997 MERCURY SABLE 1MELM50U4VA636969 1986 FORD BRONCO 1FMDU15N2GLA78851 1992 TOYOTA CAMRY 4T1SK12E1NU044165 1990 CHEVROLET VAN 2GBEG25K7L4127184 1994 CHEVROLET LUMINA 1GNDU06L0RT127714 1995 FORD ESCORT 1FASP11J9SW310431 1988 PLYMOUTH RELIANT 3P3BP41K5JT861478 1994 FORD RANGER 1FTCR15X4RPA31450 1993 FORD THUNDERBIRD 1FAPP624XPH220616

60. Misc. Sales

BUILDING FOR SALE Great Location for New Business, Stand alone, Approx. 1400 sq. ft., 4427 Inkster, Inkster #313-969-1818 / flipdetroit.com

61. Misc. Items

NEW QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC PILLOWTOP Mattress & Box Set \$150 w/warranty New in Plastic Can Deliver 734-326-2744

121. Autos Wanted

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87. Rooms For Rent

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88. Duplexes For Rent

NEW LOWER RENTS! Winter Utility Allowance! WESTLAND-NORWAYNE Call for list of clean, renovated 2 & 3 BR duplexes. Section 8 welcome City Inspected Lead Paint safe. Some pets permitted. Flexible move-in cost. No application fee Most credit accepted Professional local full-time management and service. Office at 2365 S. Venoy. Norplex Associates 734-722-6444 EHO

WESTLAND 3 Bedroom Duplex New windows, New siding, \$575/month Call 734-722-0160 for appointment

89. Apartments For Rent

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS NOVEMBER SPECIAL till December 1st., Large One Bedrooms, Starting at \$495/mo., No Sec. Dep. (per credit report), No Application Fee, Some restrictions apply. Call #313-920-5966 (24hrs.), or #734-444-5185, #734-444-5212

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS NOVEMBER SPECIAL till December 1st., Large One Bedrooms, Starting at \$495/mo., No Sec. Dep. (per credit report), No Application Fee, Some restrictions apply. Call #313-920-966 (24hrs.), or #734-444-5185, #734-444-5212

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96. Houses For Rent

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SPORTS

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Vikings deliver Inkster heads to semi finals

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Neither rain nor snow nor hail nor gloom of an early winter keeps the mighty Vikings from the swift gridiron triumphs of their appointed contest.

The Vikings faced it all but nothing was going to stop them from delivering.

The Inkster Vikings faced several elements, including a fierce pack of Chelsea Bulldogs, in the course of one football game. But they still got the job done with a 16-13 victory in a Division 3 regional championship bout at Romulus Middle School on Saturday.

The Vikes now move on to the state semifinal against Bloomfield Hills Lahser this Saturday at Birmingham Seaholm High School—one step away from Ford Field.

The relentless barrage of ice, snow and rain was just one of the challenges the Vikings faced.

Inkster was awarded home field advantage but that turned into an away game at a neutral site. The venue changed to Romulus Middle School to accommodate the droves of Chelsea fans known to follow the team.

The artificial turf at Romulus was also slick but that didn't stop the running game for either team. The Vikings faced the biggest 'Dog in the house, junior running back Nick Hill.

Hill rushed for 320 yards the week before. The Inkster defense held the running phenom to 168 yards and zero touchdowns on Saturday not including the 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to open the second half.

Junior quarterback Devin Gardner rushed for 122 yards and both of Inkster's touchdowns and was 4-for-9 for 25 yards passing in the wet conditions.

"It was tough—it was cold," he said of the conditions. "The team kept playing hard and the line kept blocking hard. We couldn't pass the ball very much—it was really cold—but we got it done. We just got it done."

Gardner did whatever it took to keep the ball moving forward while alluding tacklers and turning several third-and-long plays into first downs.

"I just wanted to win," he added. "I'll do whatever it takes to win and that's what I did."

He wasn't the only one willing to do whatever was needed of him.

Inkster senior running back Alan Freeman carried for 21 times for 91 yards in the effort. Freeman's stellar defensive play disrupted Chelsea's attack. He racked up 10 tackles and defended two passes.

One of the key drives for Inkster was the first possession of the game. The Vikings held on to the ball for nearly eight and a half minutes before Gardner rolled to the outside on a

four-yard keeper. Senior running back Kevin Brown battled his way into the end zone for the two-point conversion and an 8-0 advantage.

"What we did was keep the ball away from a great tailback," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter of the long drive. "We had the ball a good seven or eight minutes and that helped. That was the best way for us to start the game off because it allowed us to build confidence and momentum."

Both teams tried to keep their footing through the rest of the first and most of the second until Gardner punched in a one-yard keeper with 1:29 left in the half. He then connected with senior wide receiver Cameron Gordon for the two-point conversion to make it a 16-0 game.

The two-score lead didn't last long.

Hill opened the second half with his 80-yard return up the right side to narrow the lead, 16-6. That didn't dampen the Vikings' spirit.

"We still believed—you can't stop believing," Gardner said. "That didn't do anything but get their hopes up."

Inkster struggled offensively in the second half and had a scare when Gardner went down clenching his right leg. He only had a cramp but it was bad enough to sideline him for part of the fourth quarter.

"We made a couple of mistakes when he wasn't in there and offensively gave them a chance," Carter said.

With 1:09 left to play in the fourth, Chelsea senior quarterback Michael Roberts escaped for a 14-yard jaunt to pay dirt. He kicked the extra point to make it a 16-13 game.

But the contest was far from over. The Bulldogs recovered an onside kick for a chance to tie or win.

Inkster stood tough, though.

The biggest play of the game was when sophomore Donovan Lindsay—with plenty of real estate to make up—caught up with a wide-open Steven O'Keefe and jarred a pass loose in the end zone on third down.

On fourth down with 11 seconds to go, a scrambling Roberts fired a shot that Inkster senior defensive back Damond Smith intercepted, ending the game.

"We never really held them in their territory and we always had to make plays in the red zone," Carter said. "We did a good job of making plays when we had to because they moved the ball extremely well after we had that first long drive."

Senior strong safety Jose McNeal recovered a fumble at the Inkster 18 and returned to the Chelsea 38. He also earned a sack on the day. Senior linebacker Darnell Morris led



Inkster junior quarterback Devin Gardner (7) looks for running room against Chelsea defenders during a Division 3 regional championship match at Romulus High School on Saturday. Gardner ran for 122 yards and both of Inkster's scores to win the game, 16-13.



Inkster senior running back Alan Freeman (2) stiff arms Chelsea tackler Zach Giller to pick up extra yards on Saturday. Freeman finished with 91 yards rushing.

See Vikings, page 8

Spartans upset Chiefs in regional finale game

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



Canton senior running back Kiere Daniels (2) tries to get by Stevenson's Kyle Hobbins (51) during a 38-31 loss to the Spartans in a Division 1 regional final at Canton on Friday night.

Canton was a part of one of the biggest upsets in high school football this season.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, it didn't belong to them.

The Chiefs were ready to book the buses for a trip to Spartan Stadium at Michigan State University when they led visiting Livonia Stevenson by two touchdowns with less than eight minutes left in a Division 1 regional championship on Friday night.

But it was like someone let the air out of the tires and left the Chiefs stranded in Canton Township.

The Spartans stormed back with three unanswered tallies for a 38-31 victory and took Canton's spot in the state semifinal bout in East Lansing on Saturday.

"It's a game we lost," said Canton Coach Tim Baechler. "There's no question about it. We didn't get beat tonight—we lost it through all of our mistakes."

Canton took a 31-17 lead on a five-yard run by junior halfback Ron Gaudi—his fourth touchdown of the night—with 7:53 left to play before the unthinkable happened.

Stevenson senior quarterback Jacob Gudeman connected with senior running back Wade Stahl for a 26-yard score to cut into the lead, 31-24, with 6:07 left.

Three minutes later Stevenson

senior defensive back Zeb Bacigal scooped up a rare Canton fumble and returned it 30 yards for a score, knotting the game at 31, with 3:17 left to play.

Canton went three and out on its next possession, handing the ball over to Stevenson with 2:19 left. Two plays later junior running back Austin White capped off the scoring with a six-yard run and 1:41 left to play.

"We were in total control," Baechler said. "They never stopped us until we had to throw. Our turnovers killed us—especially the one they returned for a touchdown. Our kickoff team was terrible and our kickoff coverage was terrible. We have to work on that in the off season to get better."

”

I'm so proud of our seniors. They led the way all season, all summer. They were not happy with a 5-4 season the year before and we were so young on offense we over achieved a little bit this year. I'm very, very proud of these guys.

**Canton Coach
Tim Baechler**

Gaudi was the bright spot for Canton. He rushed for 166 yards on 17 carries and scored every Canton touchdown. On top of his fourth quarter touchdown, he scored on a two-yard plunge for the only tally in the first quarter and a one-yard push to make it a 14-0 game six seconds into the second quarter. And he added another one-yarder with 2:12 left in the third to make it a 24-17 game.

"Gaudi needed that for his confidence," Baechler said. "He had some injury problems and he came back strong and finally got his quickness back."

Dan Stoney was a perfect 4-for-4 on extra point attempts and he booted a 24-yard field goal at 3:46 of the second to make it a 17-3 game.

Senior running back Kiere Daniels added 97 yards on the ground for Canton.

All in all, it was a good year for the offensively young Chiefs.

"I'm so proud of our seniors," Baechler said. "They led the way all season, all summer. They were not happy with a 5-4 season the year before and we were so young on offense we over achieved a little bit this year. I'm very, very proud of these guys."

Teams will have to watch out for Canton next year as they return eight players to the offense—five linemen—and practically their entire backfield.

"We're very excited for next year," Baechler said.

CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS BID 08/09-11 - GIS BASED ASSET MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/items.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must use forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Icon@ci.romulus.mi.us or are available to download from the "Bid Requirements" section on the City of Romulus Web Site, <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>

(2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the *City Clerk's Office* no later than 3:00 pm, Wednesday, December 17, 2008. At approximately 3:15 pm all timely received bids are to be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE
BID 08/09-11 - GIS BASED ASSET MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan

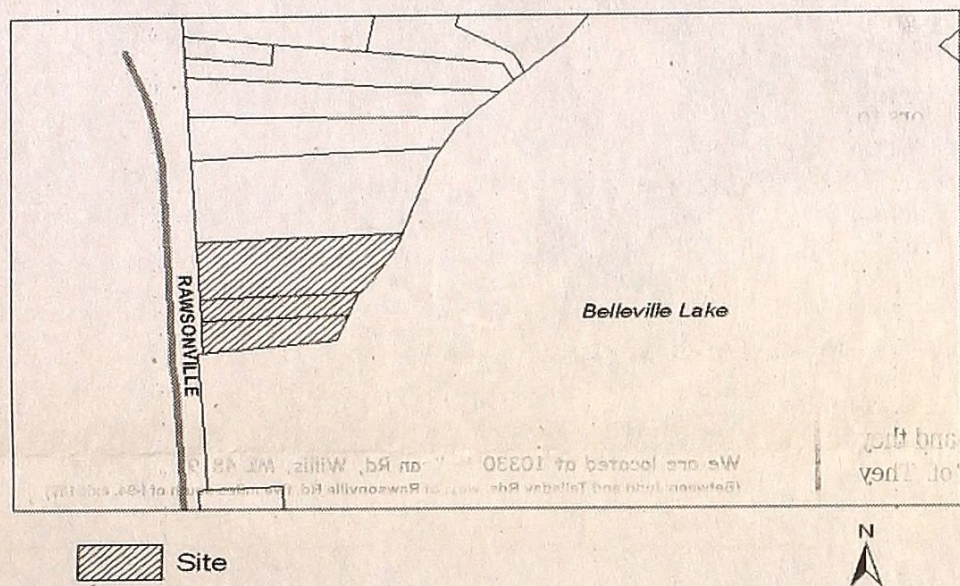
- (1) The City reserves the right to reject all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.
- (2) For additional information contact Lynn A. Conway, City of Romulus Purchasing Agent, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

Publish: November 20, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and Wayne County, Michigan.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:
This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V125-83-074-01-0001-010. This property is located on the East side of Rawsonville Road, South of Gove Road and North of W. Huron River Drive. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for Drive-in restaurants per Section 12.03 (d) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., December 10, 2008, the date of the hearing.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Posted: November 20, 2008
Publish: November 20, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN Community Development Block Grant Use of Funds

On Tuesday December 2, 2008, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Van Buren Township will hold the second public hearing on the proposed use of the Township's 2009 Community Development Block Grant funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The estimated funding level for the 2009 CDBG Budget Year is \$135,000. The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- Assist low and moderate-income persons
- Address slum or blight conditions
- Meet a particularly urgent community development need

The following projects are proposed and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees:

Senior Services - Public Services	
• A portion (23%) of the Senior Director's wages	\$11,500.00
• Transportation coordinator	\$10,900.00
• Telephone reassurance staff person	\$ 9,100.00
• Senior Center administrative intern	\$ 7,000.00
Senior Services - Bricks & Mortar	
• Office area additions	\$10,500.00
Parks & Recreation - Public Services	
Youth Services	
• Takin' It To The Streets	\$14,000.00
• Youth instruction and activities	\$ 6,000.00
Parks & Recreation Brick & Mortar projects	
• Physical fitness area for youth/closet rebuild	\$ 5,000.00
ADA Project	
• ADA accessible drop box – Township Hall	\$ 10,000.00
Demolition	\$ 37,500.00
Planning / Administration	\$ 13,500.00
Total Funding	\$135,000.00

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday December 2, 2008.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish November 20, 2008

Vikings

FROM PAGE 7

the defense with 12 tackles. Gordon added six tackles.

The slim victory was a complete opposite of Inkster's two lopsided playoff wins that the Vikings outscored opponents, 102-0.

"It was a good day for us to win a tough game," Carter said. "Our games have been lopsided and you know that they aren't

always going to be like that. To see what kind of resolve the team has and how much they are going to suck it up was good for us. We had to play every down in this game."

Inkster (11-1) heads to Birmingham Seaholm High School to play the nearby Bloomfield Hills Lahser (11-1) at 1 p.m. on Saturday in the state semifinals.

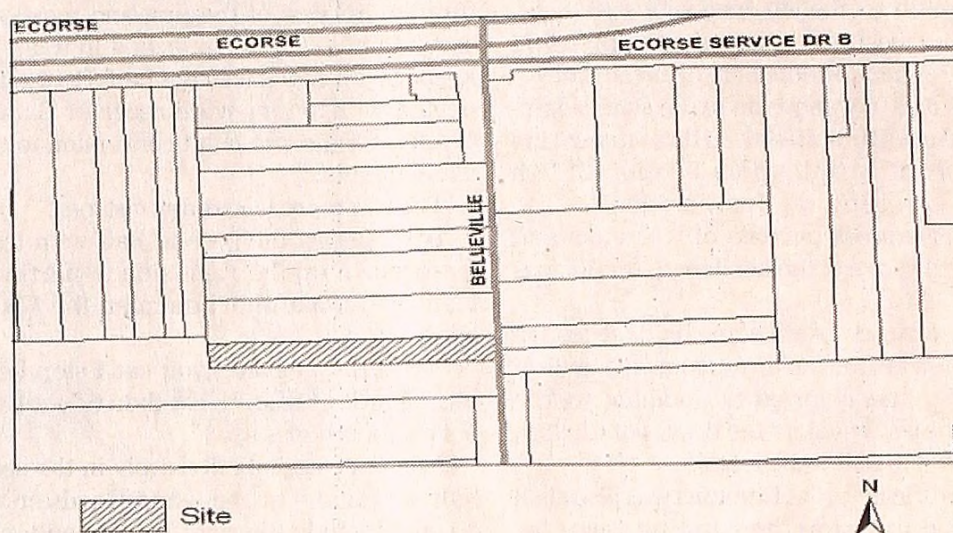
The victor plays the winner of the East Grand Rapids-Stevensville Lakeshore game in the Division 3 state championship game at Ford Field at 7:30 pm on Saturday, Nov. 29.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan 48111 on Wednesday December 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

The property is located on west side of Belleville Road, between Ecorse Road and Robson Road, tax ID number V125-83-033-99-0032-000, or more commonly known as 7782 Belleville Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below:



The applicant is requesting a modification to construct a detached accessory building with an area that exceeds the maximum permitted ground coverage by 126 square feet as regulated by Section 4.14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance 06-02-92, as amended.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing. In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: November 20, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 3, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova,
Excused: Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Linda R. Choate, Clerk

Pamela Morrison Kersey, Treasurer, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-348

2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crout to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held October 27, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously

- 3A. None

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg, to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. None.

08-349

6C1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of City Attorney, Barry Seifman and approve the appointment of Wayne County as Representative Petitioner for Contested Case with regard to the 2008 Storm Water Permit attempting to be imposed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Roll Call Vote Showing- Ayes Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays-None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-350

6C2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of City Attorney, Barry Seifman.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova.

Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 3, 2009.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 20, 2008

SPORTS



Belleville Lady Tigers huddle up before a regional semifinal bout against Airport Carleton at Saline High School last Tuesday. Airport ended the Tigers' district championship season in three games (12-25, 18-25, 18-25).

Belleville's valiant effort falls short at regionals

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Lady Tigers' valiant season came to halt on Tuesday night, when they fell to Airport Carleton in three games of a Division 1 Region 2A semifinal at Saline.

The scores (12-25, 18-25, 18-25) didn't reflect the effort Belleville showcased through the regular season or in the district tournament where the Tigers beat Ypsilanti, Romulus and a very tough John Glenn squad to nab the district crown and move on to the regional tournament.

Belleville didn't necessarily play bad. Airport just proved to be a team that opponents can't get behind early against.

At the start of the first game, the teams traded points before the Hornets went on a 8-4 spree and then a 9-2 rally to go up, 19-7. Belleville struggled to get back into the game before airport put the game away, 25-12.

The Lady Tigers faced a similar fate in the second game.

After taking a 2-0 lead, the Hornets responded with an 8-1 run that gave them the lead. They led by as many as nine points, but the Tigers refused to go away as they clawed their way back into the game, narrowing the gap, 17-22. Belleville's flash of brilliance ended and Airport came away with the 25-18 victory and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five match.

In game-three Belleville raced to a 4-1 lead but couldn't hang on. Service and hitting errors opened the door for the Hornets, who stormed back to take an 8-7 advantage. It was nip and tuck the rest of the way until Airport's towering junior Jordan Erz caught fire. The middle hitter had three straight kills to put the Hornets up, 19-16. She added another kill to go up, 20-17.

Belleville senior Samantha Cole notched a block kill for Belleville's final point to make it 18-21. Then Belleville knocked it out on the next set and Airport finished the game off with three unanswered points—two of them aces, including match point, by senior Nicole Olson.

"It just didn't go our way today," said Belleville Coach Sam Villa. "You can't make mistakes and we made a lot of errors. We made a lot of hitting errors, a lot of blocking errors—we were in the net probably three, four times—serve and receive we didn't pass the ball as well as we usually do."

"Airport is well coached and they hardly make any mistakes and if you make the errors they get on top of you," he added. "It just wasn't our day today and I wish it were."

Senior hitter Ashley Blaszcak led the Tiger attack with seven kills. She had 12 digs on the night. Senior Megan Gohl had 18 digs and two aces and Shana Tooley added 12 digs and four aces. Senior Brittany Villa led the team with 19 assists and had one block.

"I told the girls to not be ashamed

and keep their heads up even though it looked as bad as it did because we had a great season," Coach Villa said. "We played a lot of good teams and played them close and we just didn't get it done when it needed to get done. I have a great group of girls and I wish them all well."

Belleville loses eight seniors to graduation in June, including Blaszcak, Shakiyla Price, Gohl, Brittany Villa, Tooley, Rachel Morrissey, Stacy Stoker and Cole.

"I wish all of my seniors well and they've had a good volleyball season at Belleville," Sam Villa said. "In middle school I don't think they lost any. At high school we've won league; we've won districts and they have nothing to be ashamed of. They had a good career in volleyball."

Sam Villa returns four juniors:

Kelsey Shuckel—who had six digs against Airport—Samantha Kole, Nicole Rodgers, Daysza Lewis, making the 2009 season a rebuilding year.

"Next year we're going to be pretty young," Sam Villa said. "That will hurt a little bit but that's why we have an off-season to get them ready."



Belleville senior Brittany Blaszcak, left, tips a shot over Airport blockers Avery Bodenmiller (10) and Jordan Erz, right, for one of her seven kills in a regional semifinal at Saline last Tuesday. Airport won the match in three games.

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